

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent, comprising a porous silica having a hexagonal pore structure, an average pore size of from 0.8 to 20 nm, an average particle size of 50 nm to 100 μm , a specific surface area of from 400 to 2000 m^2/g , and a pore volume of from 0.1 to 3.0 cm^3/g .

2. (Withdrawn) The moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent according to claim 1, wherein the porous silica shows an X-ray diffraction pattern having one or more peaks at a diffraction angle corresponding to a d value of greater than 2.0 nm, and wherein in the X-ray diffraction pattern there exist no peaks at a diffraction angle corresponding to a d value smaller than 1.0 nm that have a relative intensity of greater than 200% of the most intensive peak among said peaks.

3. (Withdrawn) The moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the porous silica has an amount of chlorophyll adsorption of 5 mg or more per 100 mg of the porous silica according to a test for chlorophyll adsorption.

4. (Withdrawn) The moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the porous silica has an average particle size of primary particles of from 30 to 500 nm.

5. (Withdrawn) The moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising a polyglycerol fatty acid ester obtained by esterification of a polyglycerol having an average degree of polymerization of 3 or more, and a fatty acid.

6. (Withdrawn) A material having adsorbability of moisture or a protein, comprising the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent as defined in claim 1 or 2.

7. (Withdrawn) The material according to claim 6, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of food wrapping materials; filtration aid agents; sanitary articles; compositions containing a synthetic resin; moisture-controlled material; covering materials for wounds; insulation substrates; covering materials for semiconductor devices; cosmetics; inkjet recording media; and compositions containing synthetic fibers.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for imparting adsorbability of moisture- or a protein to a material by adding a moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent to a material selected from the group consisting of food wrapping materials, filtration aid agents, sanitary articles, ~~compositions containing a synthetic resin, moisture-controlled material,~~ covering materials for wounds, insulation substrates, coating materials for semiconductor devices, cosmetics, and compositions containing synthetic fibers, wherein

the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent comprises a porous silica having a hexagonal pore structure, an average pore size of from 0.8 to 20 nm, an average particle size of 50 nm to 100 μm , a specific surface area of from 400 to 2000 m^2/g , and a pore volume of from 0.1 to 3.0 cm^3/g .

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the porous silica of the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent shows an X-ray diffraction pattern having one or more peaks at a diffraction angle corresponding to a d value of greater than 2.0 nm, and wherein in the X-ray diffraction pattern there exist no peaks at a diffraction angle corresponding to a d value smaller than 1.0 nm that have a relative intensity of greater than 200% of the most intensive peak among said peaks.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the porous silica of the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent has an amount of chlorophyll adsorption of 5 mg or more per 100 mg of the porous silica according to a test for chlorophyll adsorption.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the porous silica of the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent has an average particle size of primary particles of from 30 to 500 nm.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent further comprises a polyglycerol fatty acid ester obtained by esterification of a polyglycerol having an average degree of polymerization of 3 or more, and a fatty acid.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent is added in amount of 0.001 to 100 % by weight.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the material is a sanitary article, and the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent is added in amount of 0.001 to 30 % by weight.